It's 14/07 and I lost like all of the work. I'm so fucking upset. You better appreciate all the hard work man.

The biggest online puzzle: NotPron

notpron.com

Explanation

Opmerkingen

TWs

The hunt for the Death Valley Germans

otherhand.org

The Death Valley Germans were a family of four tourists from Germany who went missing in Death Valley National Park on 23 July 1996. Despite an intense search and rescue operation, no trace of the family was discovered and the search was called off. In 2009, the remains of the two adult members of the family were discovered by hikers who were searching a remote area for evidence of the fate of the tourists. This is the story of one of these searchers, describing how he got involved with the case, how he planned the search and how he eventually found the remains of the parents.

"This is the tale of what for me was a rather remarkable adventure. It was assembled on the basis of my personal recollection and experience, emails, GPS logs and some official documents."

This is a masterpiece. It's beautiful and he takes you through all of the steps of this process. He really woke up one day, found a case and said: "I'm gonna make a difference here" and then did it. It's inspiring and amazing. He also vividly describes his thought process and the searches, it really makes you feel like you're along for the ride, including the triumph of the find.

TWs: body recovery, photographs (non-graphic), missing persons, wilderness, family including children, skeletal remains, accidental death, survival situation.

Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows

dictionaryofobscuresorrows.com

Have you ever wondered about the lives of each person you pass on the street, realizing that everyone is the main character in their own story, each living a life as vivid and complex as your own? That feeling has a name: "sonder." Or maybe you've watched a thunderstorm roll in and felt a primal hunger for disaster, hoping it would shake up your life. That's called "lachesism." Or you were looking through old photos and felt a pang of nostalgia for a time you've never actually experienced. That's "anemoia."

If you've never heard of these terms before, that's because they didn't exist until John Koenig set out to fill the gaps in our language of emotion.

My emo-teenage-self may be showing here, but I spent some time on this website in like 2019. It's pretty cool. Not a single unique experience in my life I guess, but it is nice to feel seen. The words are existential, bittersweet and sometimes a painful reminder. Just scrolling through it feels almost...nostalgic? The site changed a bit after the release of the book, but I believe the words are all still available. Be ware of the AI-generated rip-off site though!

TWs: sad and/or gloomy descriptions.

Rabies

r/UnresolvedMysteries: Surviving the Unsurvivable: How can some people recover from rabies after developing symptoms? And are there some who can survive infection unharmed without medical intervention? Medical Mystery

Rabies is a disease which terrifies people - and for good reason. The rabies virus (scientific name Rabies lyssavirus) is a single-stranded RNA virus which can be carried by any warm-blooded mammal, although some are much more susceptible than others. It exists in over 150 countries and on five continents (Antarctica is of course clear, but Oceania also hosts no rabies virus, only related lyssaviruses). The virus travels along the nerves of the host until it reaches the brain, causing physical and behavioural symptoms and, before too long, death.

Rabies is so goddamn spooky man. It's one of the scariest diseases imo. We treat it quite casually nowadays with vaccines, but by God is it freaky when you look into it. This is a really good and interesting write up in my opinion, and it really gives you a healthy dose of reality and respect for the sheer amount of destruction diseases can cause. Just wow.

TWs: disease, description of medical symptoms.

The death of

Adrianna Hutto

crimeandcoffeecouple.com

Adrianna Elaine Hutto was a seven-year-old American. On August 8, 2007, Adrianna's mother, Amanda E. Lewis, made a 911 call stating that she had found her daughter in the family's pool and she was not breathing. Emergency personnel rushed Adrianna to the nearby hospital, where she was pronounced dead about an hour after arrival. The death was initially treated as an accident until Adrianna's half-brother A.J., then six years old, told police that his mother "dunked" Adrianna in the pool as a form of corporal punishment. Amanda was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of her daughter, mostly based on the witness statement of her then 7 year old son A.J.

Okay, I definitely believe Amanda killed or at least neglected her daughter, but convicting on the word of a 7 year old, especially when the story is inconsistent and the first statements were taken improperly is just really dodgy. Like yea, A.J. stands by his statement as an adult, but false memories are surprisingly easy to create, especially in kids! False memories and the reliability of eye witness testimonies are a great next rabbit hole to fall into btw, like we *really* like to believe are brains are much more reliable than they are.

TWs: murder, child death, children otherwise involved, suspect in the family, description of body soon after death, solved murder, in depth description of cause of death, murder or accident?

The murder of James Bulger

Wikipedia.org

Robert Thompson and Jon Venables were only 10 years old when they lured James Bulger away from the mall where he was shopping with his mother. They tortured and murdered the two year old before leaving his body near the railway line to be found 2 days later. The boys were trialled as adults and became the youngest convicted murderers in modern British history.

There is something deeply interesting about child murderers and in this case especially, the psychology is interesting because there was seemingly no motive apart from the boys wanting to kill. Decades later, Thompson has expressed remorse and never reoffended, Venables is back in prison for the third time on possession of child sexual abuse images. And it's so hard, because how much leniency do they deserve? On the one hand, if you're 10 years old, can you oversee the severity of your actions? Do you deserve some leniency (for example by getting a fake identity at 18), especially since there was likely some peer pressure involved? On the other hand, is a 10 year old who so purposefully inflicts pain and death on a younger, more vulnerable child just inherently unsuited for society? Multiple people also saw the kids and noted the older boys being rough with James, but no one stopped them... What does a murderer look like?

TWs: murder, child death, children otherwise involved, description of physical assault, description of violent murder, solved murder.

The Ariel Castro Kidnappings

Wikipedia.org

Between 2002 and 2004, Ariel Castro abducted Michelle Knight (21), Amanda Berry (17), and Gina DeJesus (14) and held them captive in his home. He raped and abused the girls and conceived multiple children with them, before Amanda Berry managed to escape and save herself and the others.

Ariel Castro is just genuinely a vile human being. He tried to claim all sex was consensual and blamed it all on a porn addiction. If you want to see true denial, look up his statement at the sentencing, just insanity. Nonetheless, the case has a relative "happy" ending. All women were found alive, despite being missing for over a decade, which is always sort of mind blowing to think about, since most missing persons cases are assumed dead way earlier than that. The women were also really resilient. Horrible man, horrible situation, but also sort of... hopeful and inspiring?

TWs: descriptions of sexual assault, descriptions of physical assault, involuntary imprisonment, survival!

The amazing survival of Mary Vincent

morbidology.org

Mary Bell McGriff (née Vincent; born 1963) is an American artist and victim advocate. She became known to the public after surviving a violent attack while hitchhiking in 1978, in which her forearms were severed with an axe.

This woman is amazing. She was 15 when she was attacked, raped, mutilated and thrown off a cliff to die. She staunched the bleeding, climbed back up the cliff and walked for nearly 5 km, naked with no arms, until she came across a couple who called the police. She gave a description at the hospital and faced her attacker in court. He got only 14 years, and killed a woman a couple years after his release. Mary testified again to once again have him put away. She got a University degree, started a career in art, became a victim's advocate and gives motivational speeches. Her coming back from *that* is just immensely impressive. Like, can you imagine living through that at only 15 years old? And the way she handled the aftermath, with grace and honesty is just... wow.

TWs: sexual assault, descriptions of physical assault, mutilation, survival!

The murders of 2 babies:

Diane and Rosemary

r/UnresolvedMysteries: In June 1947 infants Rosemary Morton and Diane Brand were found with devastating skull fractures in the nursery of Massillon, Ohio's City Hospital. Sadly, both girls succumbed to their injuries. Over 70 years later, the circumstances surrounding their deaths still remain a mystery.

At 7:35pm, a nurse at Ohio's City hospital checked on the nursery's sole occupants, 9-week-old Rosemary Morton, and 8-week-old Diane Brand, finding them fast asleep. Ten minutes later, she returned to find the babies fatally wounded. No significant evidence was found at the scene, however it was revealed the person responsible may have used any one of four possible routes to gain access to the fourth floor. With a limited night staff, and heavy restrictions on visitors, police were left with few suspects. A 6-year-old patient first claims to have seen a teenager enter and later confesses to the crime. It is later concluded the confession was very likely coerced. The murder remains unsolved.

This one is just so baffling. A hospital is guarded, so not like there's many suspects. The murder was also hella brutal, so how did no one hear anything? Also why would the journalist coerce a confession from the 6 year old? The 6 year old who saw a teenager brutally murder 2 babies wasn't a salacious enough???

TWs: murder, child death, children otherwise involved, description of physical assault, description of violent murder, infants, unsolved murder.

The death of

Paulette Gebara

r/UnresolvedMysteries: Who murdered 4 year old Paulette Gebara? Found dead in her room, hidden under her mattress, her death was ruled an accident.

If Paulette Gebara was alive today she would be 11 years old, perhaps a 6th grader at her local elementary school with a passion for drawing or reading. Instead, 4 year old Paulette Gebara was found dead under mysterious circumstances on the 30th of March 2010. Hidden beneath her mattress, still wearing her blue and purple pajamas and covered by blood-stained blankets, the investigators on the case ruled her death an accident: the little girl, they said, had died of asphyxiation.

Heads up, loads of reconstruction images and video's, but actual pictures are also available online if you go looking for them. Once again, just a weird one... People slept in the bed and it was allegedly made multiple times with a body at the foot of it? Maybe, *maybe*, I can imagine not seeing or feeling it if you're making it on autopilot, but you don't see discoloration or fluids on the sheets when you wash or handle them? You don't smell anything??? Also just teenage-me nightmare fuel ofc.

TWs: murder, child death, non-graphic description of decomposing remains, reconstruction images and video, claustrophobic body location, suspect in the family, murder or accident?

The Ngogo chimpanzee war

portside.org

The Western and Central factions of chimpanzees of the Ngogo hill region in Kibale National Park, Uganda, have been engaged in a violent conflict since 2015. The conflict has been characterized by one-sided violence, including killing, brutal attacks, and mutilations, by the Western faction against the Central faction. Because the Ngogo chimpanzees formerly constituted a single peaceful community that violently split apart, this conflict has been described as a "civil war". The New York Times said the conflict was the bloodiest among chimpanzees ever recorded.

Communities of animals portraying distinctly human social behaviours is cool okay? Like it's not two tribes competing over land, it's literal *war*. There's strategy involved, including targeting of vulnerable individuals, ambush attacks and coordinated raids. In fact, the Western faction, which was most lethal, had less members, proving that at the centre, coordination and strategy played a big role. It was also well documented and I think I saw a documentary on it. Which then led me to the Gombo chimpanzee war (the similar incident in the 80s, also in these rabbitholes).

TWs: descriptions of violence between animals.

The death of Joshua Maddux

r/UnresolvedMysteries: Joshua Maddox: The Boy in the Chimney (u/trissle_hippie)

> Joshua Maddux was an 18-year-old boy who's mummified remains were found in the chimney of an old wooden cabin in Colorado, U.S.A. Why and how did he end up there?

Maybe the most baffling case I've ever read about. None of it makes sense at all. Like first, you'll assume okay, runaway kid trying to break into the cabin, but supposedly, there was a metal mesh in the chimney. But okay, maybe the mesh was damaged or something, but why was he in the chimney? Maybe he was shoved in? Nope, evidence suggests he got in there voluntarily and he died due to the elements. Okay, so he got stuck in the chimney when he was trying to get into the cabin to hide from the elements? His clothes were found folded, inside the cabin, whilst he was wearing only a shirt and was found head down in the chimney. So what? He got in, took off his clothes, got out in nothing but a shirt and got stuck when he climbed back into the cabin? Why did he only get stuck the third time? Did he have another way in? But then why go in the chimney at all? Just genuinely, what the fuck!

TWs: found remains, unsolved mystery, claustrophobic body location, murder or accident?

The death of Naoyuki Kanno

r/TrueCrimeDiscussion: A young Japanese man was found dead in a septic tank in female toilet. The body was bent up in a very bizarre posture. Police concluded that he was trying to peep women and died from hypothermia. But there were clearly too many suspicions that don't add up.

Naoyuki had been missing on February 24th and found dead on the 28th in a septic pipe of the female teacher's dormitory. According to the forensics, Naoyuki was believed to have died on the 26th. Police concluded and closed the case as an accidental death, which is Naoyuki Kanno was trying to peep women and died from hypothermia.

This guy was demonized so hard. Like it became this classic almost ghoststory for women. I know I heard about the guy who died in the toilet whilst trying to peep, but I gotta admit the details don't add up imo. Like yes, people do weird and badly thought out stuff when horny, but this? I can imagine maybe having some reason for taking off the shoes and I can see how he may have not realized he could not see much because of the lighting, but if you want to spy on women, why go into a cramped space without your shirt, in February at the start of a three-day national holiday during which the building was closed? It's just too nonsensical to me.

TWs: unexplained death, claustrophobic body location, murder or accident?

The possible abduction of Madeleine McCann

Wikipedia

Madeleine was on holiday from the United Kingdom with her parents Kate and Gerry McCann, her two-year-old twin siblings, and a group of family friends and their children. The McCann children had been left asleep at 20:30 in the ground-floor apartment while their parents dined with friends in a restaurant 55 metres away. The parents checked on the children about every 30–40 minutes throughout the evening, until Kate discovered Madeleine was missing at 22:00. Over the following weeks the Portuguese police came to believe that Madeleine had died in an accident in the apartment and her parents had covered it up. Her parents maintain their innocence. As of today, it remains unclear where Madeleine is, and if she is even alive.

Really famous case. Completely baffling. A media circus. There's some really insane theories out there, as well as some sort of recent developments in the last couple of years where Germany suspected Christian Brückner of abducting and selling and/or killing Madeleine. She was born in 2003, I've known of the case for a long time, but I just realized she's our age. They lived in Amsterdam for a bit too when she was a toddler. We could've met her. I think if she's still alive, she was likely trafficked, hopefully as an illegal adoptee, and not worse. It's crazy to think about...

TWs: missing persons, suspect in the family, kidnapping, unsolved disappearance, murder or accident?

The tragic death of Geraldine Largay

strangeoutdoors.com

Geraldine Anita Largay was a retired nurse and U.S. Air Force veteran who was hiking the Appalachian Trail. On July 24, 2013, she was reported overdue at a trail crossing by her husband. One of the largest searches in the state's history ensued but was unable to locate Gerry or any clues related to her disappearance. On October 14, 2015, a tent site that contained human remains was reported. The remains were confirmed to be those of Largay, she had died from lack of food and water and environmental exposure. The site was approximately 910m from the trail in dense woods. A journal recovered from the campsite revealed that Gerry had survived at least 19 days, until at least August 10. Canine search teams had on three occasions come to within 91m of the site.

This one is sooo important. She was so close to civilization and SAR came so close to her (whilst she was still alive!). Humans make mistakes and both missing persons and searchers are human. Unlikely scenario's do happen and I believe that, especially in wilderness survival situations, human fallacy plays a bigger role in missing person cases than most people assume. I also recommend looking into her "mistakes", because she made some really questionable choices, but a lot of people have given valuable insights, like she was on anxiety meds. If I suddenly had no antidepressants, I'd be unpredictable too. ..

TWs: wilderness, death, body recovery, survival situation, photo's (non-graphic), skeletal remains.

Susan Nelles:

murderer or victim?

r/UnresolvedMysteries: Between 1980-81, baby deaths at Sick Kids Hospital increased by 625%. A nurse was charged with murder. 30 years later, some believe the deaths were not murders at all.

On June 30th, 1980, 18-day-old Laura Woodcock died unexpectedly in Sick Kid's cardiac ward. Within the next two months, more than twenty babies died in the same ward, leading a group of concerned nurses to raise red flags with the hospital's cardiologists. The rate of baby deaths over the next year was 625% higher than normal. Susan Nelles was a 25-year-old nurse in the Sick Kids pediatric ward. She was one of a small team lead by Phyllis Traynor. Of the suspicious baby deaths, Nelles had been present for more than half. Susan Nelles was a 25-year-old nurse in the Sick Kids pediatric ward. She was one of a small team lead by Phyllis Traynor. Of the suspicious baby deaths, Nelles had been present for more than half. Nowadays, we are unsure if there even was a murderer.

The nurse being a victim of statistics is deeply interesting, both because of the obvious Causality vs. Correlation lectures we got and the burden of evidence we require in law, like yes, these cases are so important for reliability of circumstantial evidence!

TWs: murder, child death, children, infants, unsolved death, medical, murder or accident?

The unfortunate deaths of Kris Kremer and Lisanne Froon

r/UnresolvedMysteries: Nine years ago multiple emergency calls were being attempted from two missing women's phones within a Panamanian jungle. What happened to Kris Kremers and Lisanne Froon?: A refreshed take on the case

As of April 1st, 2023, it has been nearly a decade since the last sighting of Kris Kremers, 21, and Lisanne Froon, 22. The two young women were friends who worked at the same café together in Amersfoort, Netherlands. They planned a six-week long vacation from the Netherlands to Panama hoping to improve their Spanish and offer volunteer help for the locals in addition to sight-seeing. After deciding to go for a hike one afternoon, Kris and Lisanne disappeared, having their belongings and select body parts turn up ten weeks later.

Their remains are found, as well as their phones and camera. It raises more questions than answers. Funnily enough, I mentioned this case to my sister, who out of nowhere came through with a deep true-crime knowledge of the case. We talked about the weird photographs and after discussing it, found it most believable the panoramic photo's were marking the location of Kris' body, with the mysterious deleted photo possibly being deleted because the body was accidentally in frame. It's the only thing that would make me delete a photo in a survival situation I think...

TWs: wilderness, death, body recovery, survival situation, photo's (non-graphic), description of physical injury, skeletal remains.

The superhuman feat of Lincoln Hall

r/UnresolvedMysteries: "I imagine you're surprised to see me here." Lincoln Hall survived a night without supplies in the Death Zone of Mount Everest. After being pronounced dead by the first rescue team, the following day he climbed down the mountain. How did Lincoln Hall survive? Medical Mystery 1/2

Lincoln Hall was an experienced mountain climber, who was invited to join a team looking to reach the summit of Mount Everest, but as the expedition was beginning to descend Hall slipped into confusion and hallucinations and was left unable to travel further. His guides spent hours trying to rescue him, but were unable to do so, and eventually could find no signs of life. The next morning, a group of four (three foreign mountaineers and one sherpa) found Hall not just alive, but sitting up and talking. How did he survive and what does his survival mean for others who perished in the death zone?

This is so much more than just the story of Lincoln Hall. This post goes in depth on the effects of the deathzone, hypoxia and altitude sickness. It's basically an insight into what happened to everyone who perished in the deathzone. The bodies of Mt. Everest are generally really interesting to dive into, especially since so many have taken on an almost mythical presence postmortem. Also the existence of natural graveyards because of danger of body retrieval? Extremely interesting. There's a lot of pictures of the Rainbow Valley though, including close ups, so be ware of that.

TWs: disease, description of medical symptoms, in depth description of cause of death.

On probability and SIDS: Two convicted mothers

r/UnresolvedMysteries: Death by mother or Mother Nature: how did 2 Australian women both lose all 4 of their children?

For Kathleen Folbigg: tandfonline.com

For Carol Matthey: theage.com.au

2 Australian mothers loose 4 of their children. Kathleen is found guilty of murder and sentenced to 40 years, Carol is found not guilty. The inquiries struggle to determine whether the children died of SIDS or were murdered.

This one goes deep into medical evidence. It's so interesting. How do you go about differentiating between murder and SIDS, when SIDS by definition is a diagnosis of exclusion which can present in so many ways? What role does probability play in the whole thing? Is this like with Lindy Chamberlain, where professionals were too certain in their trust of statistics and were too quick to equate something being unlikely to something being impossible? Or is it like Susan Nelles, where circumstances increased the statistical likelihood of death under suspicious circumstance? Or were one or both of these women just killers?

TWs: child victim, murder, in depth discussion of cause of death, infants, medical, unsolved death, murder or accident?

The systematic torture and murder of Sylvia Likens

Wikipedia

> Sylvia Marie Likens was an American teenager who was tortured and murdered by her caregiver, Gertrude Baniszewski, many of Baniszewski's children, and several of their neighborhood friends. The abuse lasted for three months, occurring incrementally, before Likens died from her extensive injuries and malnourishment.

Really graphic and upsetting. There are photo's of her body if you go looking. Most interesting to me is the psychological aspect and the subsequent trial. So many people were involved, especially children, and all of them not only knew and stayed silent, but also actively participated in clearly cruel and dangerous behaviours. It feels like a real-life demonstration of the Milgram experiment and the Stanford prison experiment as well as one of the worst examples of scapegoating in child abuse I have ever heard of. The culpability and sentencing for the different culprits, who all varied in age and involvement, are also really interesting and I am unsure where I stand on them. How much leniency should age get you?

TWs: murder, child victim, children otherwise involved, descriptions of emotional abuse, descriptions of physical assault, descriptions of sexual assault.

The Gombe chimpanzee war and the Kamaha community

Wikipedia

he Gombe Chimpanzee War, also known as the Four-Year War, was a violent conflict between two communities of chimpanzees in Gombe Stream National Park. The two groups were once unified in the Kasakela community. By 1974, researcher Jane Goodall noticed the community splintering. Over a span of eight months, a large party of chimpanzees separated themselves into the southern area of Kasakela and were renamed the Kahama community. During the four-year conflict, all males of the Kahama community were killed, effectively disbanding the community. The victorious Kasakela then expanded into further territory but were later repelled by two other communities of chimpanzees.

Just like the Gombe chimpanzee war, but this was much earlier. It's well documented, because it occurred in an area where the chimps were actively being researched. Jane Goodall, famous for working with chimps, also said this experience changed her view on chimpanzee's forever, making her realize chimps could be extraordinarily brutal.

TWs: description of violence between animals.

Fatal Insomnia

Wikipedia

> Fatal insomnia is a neurodegenerative prion disease that results in trouble sleeping as its hallmark symptom. The problems with sleeping typically start out gradually and worsen over time. Eventually, the patient will succumb to total insomnia (*agrypnia excitata*), most often leading to other symptoms such as speech problems, coordination problems, and dementia. It results in death within a few months to a few years, and there is no known disease-modifying treatment.

Human bodies are scary and we love to pretend we understand them better than we do. Sleep in general is a deep rabbithole to go down, we still don't really understand the whole process or the function. Interesting, morbid, spooky and a little upsetting.

TWs: disease, medical, description of medical symptoms, descriptions of psychological symptoms.

The Pixar Theory

fantheories.fandom.com and pixartheory.com

The Pixar Theory is a famous cartoon theory explaining that all Pixar movies are set in the same universe and all link together. The theory was created by Jon Negroni. There are many takes on the theory and some takes add spin-offs and shorts to the timeline.

This one is just fun man, I miss GameTheory. I vividly remember listening to a video essay of this theory whilst picking blackberries in the summer sun. It's quite insane, and I love it. The cars taking over? Peak.

TWs: none.

The murder of JonBenét Ramsey

Wikipedia

On the night of December 25, 1996, six-year-old JonBenét Patricia Ramsey was killed in her family's home. She was reported missing early on December 26, and her body was found about seven hours later in the basement of the house. The Boulder Police Department initially focused on the Ramsey family, particularly a handwritten ransom note found in the house, which investigators believed had been written by JonBenét's mother, Patsy Ramsey. Police theorized that the note and the condition of JonBenét's body had been staged by Patsy and her husband to conceal responsibility for the killing. The killing drew extensive national and international media attention, fueled by JonBenét's participation in child beauty pageants, the family's wealth, and the unusual evidence associated with the case.

One of the major classic unsolved cases. There's so many theories, and some good documentaries too. The mishandling by the police was crazy and the amount of speculation that followed online in the years since is even more insane. Idk what I think. I believe the ransom note very clearly implicates at least one of the parents as knowing more. I tend to lean towards the accidental death with cover up by one or both of the parents, but by God it's weird.

TWs: murder, child victim, in depth description of cause of death, suspect in the family, children otherwise involved, unsolved murder, murder or accident?

The torture and murder of Junko Furuta

Wikipedia and people.howstuffworks.com

Junko Furuta (Japanese: 古田 順子) was a 17-year-old Japanese high school student who was abducted, raped, tortured, and murdered. Her abuse was mainly perpetrated by four male teenagers—Hiroshi Miyano (18), Jō Ogura (17), Shinji Minato (16), and Yasushi Watanabe (17)—and took place over a 40-day period. The brutality of the case shocked Japan, and it is said to be the worst case of juvenile crime in the country's post-war history.

Heads up, this case is absolutely brutal, like even more than your average murder case. To make it worse, the culprits were sentenced to 20 years, 10 years, 9 years and 7 years max. A bunch more boys and men were involved, the parents of the house she was kept in knew something nefarious was going on, but reported nothing and were also never charged. Another parent of one of the boys went on to vandalize Junko's grave because she "ruined her son's life", just fucking horrific. Also, I just discovered that, unfortunately, photo's of her body during and after recovery are available. Not too graphic, but not great, I wouldn't go looking.

TWs: murder, involuntary imprisonment, descriptions of physical assault, descriptions of sexual assault, descriptions of emotional abuse.

The abuse and imprisonment of Elizabeth Fritzl

Wikipedia: Fritzl case

Elizabeth Fritzl was held captive for 24 years by her father, Josef Fritzl. Fritzl had assaulted, sexually abused, and raped his daughter countless times during her imprisonment inside a concealed area in the cellar of the family home. The incestuous rapes resulted in the birth of seven children. Three children remained in captivity with their mother, one died shortly after birth and was cremated by Fritzl, and the other three were brought up in the family home upstairs by Fritzl and his wife Rosemarie, after Fritzl convinced her and the authorities that they were foundlings each time.

Very freaky, but also extremely famous. There's a lot of media based on it too. I feel like one of the more controversial parts is the involvement of the mother. She claims to not have known anything, but Fritzl spent a lot of time down in the basement and they had lodgers occasionally, some of which reported hearing sounds coming from the basement. In 24 years, it seems likely she must have noticed some suspicious things about the basement right? I suppose it's not our place to judge a likely abused woman, but it is crazy to imagine all the people who must've gotten so close to the basement and not know or not intervene.

TWs: involuntary imprisonment, suspect in the family, children otherwise involved, descriptions of emotional abuse, descriptions of sexual assault.

Who's to blame for Andrea Yates' murders?

Wikipedia

> Andrea Pia Yates is an American woman from Houston, Texas, who confessed to drowning her five children in their bathtub on June 20, 2001. The case of Yates—who had exhibited severe postpartum depression, postpartum psychosis, and schizophrenia in the years leading up to the murders—placed the M'Naghten rules, along with the irresistible impulse test for sanity, under close public scrutiny in the United States.

I feel like this case has found a place in the cultural mythos. Like if you imagine a mom killing her young children in a fit of (post-partum) psychosis, you imagine her drowning them (at least I do). So it's interesting to see that, at the time, she was seen as a ruthless murderer and not someone driven by mental health struggles. They even came back from that at a later point, and retrialled her, this time finding her innocent by reason of insanity. Always interesting to think about the edges of culpability, but I find it interesting how everyone focussed on the moment of the killing, but ignored beforehand. Like the doctor warned her husband not to leave Andrea alone, but he left her alone anyway. Andrea was also warned beforehand that having more children would likely cause psychotic episodes during which she might harm the kids, but they had more kids anyway and took no precautions to protect them. If you're willingly inebriated when killing someone, you're not found innocent, should that be extended (to some degree) to chronic or recurring mental illness?

TWs: murder, child victim, suspect in the family, insensitive handling of mental health.

The death of

Azaria Chamberlain-Creighton

Wikipedia: Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton and lindychamberlain.com

> Alice Lynne "Lindy" Chamberlain-Creighton is a New Zealand-born Australian woman who was wrongly convicted in one of Australia's most publicised and notorious trials. Accused of killing her nine-week-old daughter, Azaria, while camping at Uluru in 1980, she maintained that she saw a dingo leave the tent where Azaria was sleeping. The prosecution case was circumstantial and depended upon forensic evidence that was eventually found to be deeply flawed.

So, despite this happening in the 80s, I felt like I heard of this case growing up, which makes little sense as my parent's didn't go around telling stories of miscarriages of Australian justice to little kids, but then I learned the most horrible thing: "the dingo ate my baby!" was a comedic catchphrase for a while, especially in US media apparently. Fucking disrespectful, but likely why the whole thing felt familiar. This is one of the worst cases of trial by media and conviction based on assumptions and faulty evidence. It's a wild, but interesting read. These people really said: "it hasn't happened to a white child before" and then went out of their way to twist every piece of ambiguous evidence against the mother. r/AskHistorians: Why did people not believe that a dingo ate the baby? has some great insights in how this happened too.

TWs: child death, suspect in the family, solved death, accidental death, infant, in depth description of cause of death, description of physical assault, wilderness, murder or accident?

All the FNAF lore

fnaffreddy.com:

The complete FNAF timeline explained

and

The Purple Guy: William Afton's Complete Story

Let's be honest, trying to understand the Five Nights at Freddy's timeline is like putting together a 1,000-piece puzzle where half the pieces are missing and the other half are on fire. As someone who has been obsessively playing these games and watching every Game Theory video since 2014, I can tell you the lore is confusing, messy, but absolutely brilliant once it clicks. In this guide, I'm going to walk you through the entire story from the very beginning. If you want to finally understand what the heck is going on with the missing kids and the haunted animatronics before jumping into the games, you're in the right place.

Is it cringe? Yes. Do I care? No. I played these games a lot okay? And a weird-ass morbid backstory only made them more enticing to my edgy teenage self. Sometimes you just gotta watch a few hours of GameTheory, or read the entire FNAF lore. It's required GenZ reading. It's outrageous and ridiculous and it doesn't help that Scott frequently seems to forget or contradict his own story lmao. Still, nothing will ever compare to being a child and scouring the internet for someone throwing around a new theory based on like one pixel being present on a screen for half a second.

TWs: descriptions of decomposition, murder, child victim, children otherwise involved, but yk all in a fictional videogame.

List of pseudosciences

Wikipedia

> This is a list of topics that are generally considered pseudoscience by the scientific community. Pseudoscience consists of statements, beliefs, or practices that claim to be scientific or factual but are inherently incompatible with the scientific method. Detailed discussion of these topics may be found on their main pages.

Humans love to try and explain stuff. It's fun to scroll through a page full of the modern equivalent of: "Omg, a thunderstorm! God must be angry with us!"

TWs: none.

Search and Rescue dogs

Wikipedia

> A search-and-rescue (SAR) dog is a dog trained to respond to crime scenes, accidents, missing persons events, as well as natural or man-made disasters. These dogs detect human scent, which is a distinct odor of skin flakes and water and oil secretions unique to each person and have been known to find people under water, snow, and collapsed buildings, as well as remains buried underground. SAR dogs are a non-invasive aid in the location of humans, alive or deceased.

Got here because I watched the Madeleine McCann documentary on Netflix and saw the footage of the cadaver dogs alerting to the rental car. Got curious and looked into it some more. Search and rescue dogs are so freaking cool man. They can differentiate between human and animal remains, as well as smell buried remains, cleaned bodily fluids and even detect areas where a body was temporarily stored years earlier. They're quite reliable too, with the biggest factor in unreliability being mishandling. They're also really useful for searches in big areas and on rough terrain for obvious reasons. Looking into the reliability of SAR dogs is also a cool rabbithole to go down. Oh, also read the notable dogs section, the last one had me dying laughing. Some dogs are too smart to be search and rescue dogs I guess.

TWs: descriptions of human remains, descriptions of decomposition fluids.

Grigori Rasputin

Wikipedia

> Grigori Yefimovich Rasputin was a Russian mystic and faith healer. He is best known for having befriended the imperial family of Nicholas II, the last Emperor of Russia, through whom he gained considerable influence in the final years of the Russian Empire. Historians often suggest that Rasputin's scandalous and sinister reputation helped discredit the Tsarist government, thus precipitating the overthrow of the House of Romanov shortly after his assassination. Accounts of his life and influence were often based on common rumors; he remains a mysterious and captivating figure in popular culture.

This guy? Just. Damn. I watched the Caitlin Doughty video on his penis years ago (it's not his preserved penis, it's likely a cow penis if you're wondering. Also I googled it, and tell me why I googled "Rasputin penis" and then had the gall to be surprised about the images???). Anyway, he was basically unprecedented in his time, he was a weirdo who didn't behave like other religious figures at the time, which apparently made him interesting to the bored elite. Combine that with some weird to explain myths about his behaviours and some failed assassinations and you've got the stuff of legends...

TWs: Non-graphic photo of remains.

Linguistic drift

Wikipedia

> According to Sapir, drift is the unconscious change in natural language. He gives the example Whom did you see? which is grammatically correct but is generally replaced by Who did you see? The drift of speech changes dialects and, in long terms, it generates new languages. Although it may appear these changes have no direction, in general they do.

Literally got here because of an instagram post about the opening of Neuromancer (written in '84) being: "The sky above the port was the color of television, tuned to a dead channel." and how our interpretation of that line shifted over time from the grey static noise of the time to a bluescreen around the 90s. I thought that was cool. Turns out this phenomena happens on a way bigger scale much more frequently. Quite nerdy, but interesting nonetheless.

TWs: none.

Genie the feral child

Wikipedia

Genie (born 1957) is the pseudonym of an American feral child who was a victim of severe abuse, neglect, and social isolation. When she was approximately 20 months old, her father began keeping her in a locked room. The extent of her isolation prevented her from being exposed to any significant amount of speech, and as a result she did not acquire language during her childhood. Upon determining that she had not yet learned language, linguists saw her as providing an opportunity to gain further insight into the processes controlling language acquisition skills and to test theories and hypotheses identifying critical periods during which humans learn to understand and use language.

Horrific case, but we learned so much about language acquirement and general development from her. I am lowkey frustrated with her mother pulling her out of all the research, mostly because it eventually led to more abuse and regression on nearly basically every level of her development. Still, the fact there was so much overlap between researchers and caregivers was obviously fucked, especially for a child who already had clear problems with attachment. Reading it now, I also wonder if her father had mental health issues. The extreme aversion from noise, the paranoia and even the suicide with the message "they will never understand", screams mental illness to me. It doesn't make it right, but it's some explanation for the level of horror he inflicted. She did improve a lot though, and is reportedly happy.

TWs: descriptions of emotional abuse, descriptions of physical abuse, descriptions of sexual abuse, children otherwise involved, psychology.

The Yuba County Five

Wikipedia

The Yuba County Five were young men from Yuba County, California, United States, each with mild intellectual disabilities or psychiatric conditions, who were reported missing. In June 1978, four of the men's bodies were discovered after the snow had melted. Ted Weiher was found inside a United States Forest Service (USFS) trailer some 20 miles north of the abandoned car. Only bones were left of Jack Madruga, Bill Sterling, and Jackie Huett as a result of scavenging animals; Weiher had apparently lived for as long as three months after the men were last seen, starving to death despite an ample supply of food and heating materials in and near the trailer. Gary Mathias was never found.

It's really weird. There's also a lot of misconceptions, especially around the capabilities and mental faculties of the victims. The most tragic part is probably that at least 1 of them was basically confirmed to be alive during the search, but they didn't search that area because they thought it unlikely the men went that way. I genuinely don't know what to think. The intellectual disabilities shouldn't be ignored, but people are also quick to point to them to explain random details. Like they didn't light a fire because it "was stealing", but we know they did eat some of the food. I think my favorite explanation for how they got there is actually the UFO theory from r/UnresolvedMysteries: The Yuba 5 and a strange possibility. Also if you try and tell me you think Mathias murdered them because of his schizophrenia, I'll punch you.

TWs: unexplained death, insensitive handling of mental health, skeletal remains, murder or accident?

Het Neurenberg-tribunaal

nuremberg.law.harvard.edu

The Nuremberg trials were international criminal trials held by France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States against leaders of defeated Nazi Germany for plotting and carrying out invasions of several countries across Europe and committing atrocities against their citizens in the Second World War.

Did you know all documents were made available online? Neither did I until a few days ago. I've been reading them though and my God. I've been reading the medical trials, mostly because I feel like that's the part of what went on in the concentration camps that we were taught the least about and, unfortunately, I now know much more about the limits of human survival and depravity. Honestly, the case is repetitive and huge, but I can appreciate it's because of the following:

"*The purpose of the Nuremberg trial was not merely, or even principally, to convict the leaders of Nazi Germany … Of far greater importance, it seemed to me from the outset, was the making of a record of the Hitler regime which would withstand the test of history.*"

Look for the photo of the archive, it's immense. If they took the time to record it all, I'll take the time to read it. I can also appreciate their choice to mainly go off the suspect's own communications and words. A long read, but worth the time.

TWs: All of them.

Supernormal stimuli

encyclopedia.arabpsychology.com

Deep cut, but I got here because of the video of the wild rat systematically unpacking and distributing baseball caps around a basement. The video is very cute and I highly recommend looking it up. Anyway, people were speculating on what possessed the little guy to do this, and apart from the obvious hideyhole=good, there was also the mention of supernormal stimuli:

"There's a theorized phenomenon called "supernormal stimuli" that sometimes occurs when animal instincts intersect with human engineering. One hypothesized example is birds building multiple nest locations into human structures, which they seem to do more often there than in trees. For some species, artificial human symmetry seems to somehow read as the platonic ideal of their evolutionary pattern recognition. I wonder where there's some aspect of that here, though I'm not sufficiently an expert on rodent behavior to speculate as to what exactly. What reminded me of this is that baseball caps are damn nearly identical to the shape of the paper igloos that are the standard form factor for providing habitat cover for rodents in captivity."

Like, shut up, that's so fucking cool!

TWs: none

Yōkai Types

yokainosekai.fandom.com

Yōkai (妖怪) are a class of supernatural entities and spirits in Japanese folklore. Yōkai are a vast range of beings, including shapeshifters, ghosts, demons, and tricksters. They can be mischievous, helpful, or malevolent, often appearing as animal-like figures, possessed objects, or humanoids. They embody the mysterious and uncanny aspects of nature and human emotions.

Listen, I love sorting and folklore okay? The fact that Japanese "ghost" have a hierarchy and a whole system makes me so happy. I learned most because I was researching an artwork of Phasmophobia for my sister and it's quite funny because the a lot of the ghosts are based on Yokai, but not properly. So like an Onryo is a yurei, which is sort of like an Obake, which are a type of Yokai, but all are just ghosts in Phasmo. Anyway I went deep in the lore and it's hella cool. Also I read all these rabbitholes to my brother and this is the only one he approved of, so yk. Take that as you will.

TWs: none except it's spoooooky.